

April 1999

SAFE STREETS

FBI VIOLENT CRIME INITIATIVES



VIOLENT CRIMES
AND
MAJOR OFFENDERS
SECTION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- ◆ On January 9, 1992, the FBI announced the Safe Streets Violent Crimes Initiative (SSVCI). The SSVCI is an initiative designed to allow the Special Agent in Charge of each FBI field division to address street gang and drug-related violence through the establishment of FBI-sponsored, long-term, proactive task forces focusing on violent gangs, crimes of violence, and the apprehension of violent fugitives.
- ◆ The FBI has developed a model methodology to identify a community's crime problem and develop a strategy to address that problem.

SAFE STREETS MISSION

- ◆ Safe Streets Task Forces (SSTFs) attack street gang and drug-related violence, as well as seek the most significant fugitives wanted for crimes of violence through the establishment of long-term, proactive and coordinated teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors.
- ◆ The FBI has developed a National Violent Crime Strategy, National Strategy for Organized Crime/Drug Enterprises, and National Gang Strategy which serve as the frameworks for combating violence in America. Each of these strategies incorporates the task force concept with a comprehensive investigative and prosecutive focus.
- ◆ Through the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution/Confinement Statute, the FBI has traditionally been tasked with seeking the Nation's most sought after state and local violent fugitives. As part of the SSVCI, the FBI has joined forces with state and local agencies to apprehend violent fugitives that are wanted in association with violent criminal activity.

TASK FORCE COMPOSITION

- ◆ As of March 31, 1999, the Safe Streets and Gang Unit (SSGU) has responsibility for 164 SSTFs in 52 FBI field offices. The breakdown of SSTFs is as follows:
 - Violent Crime Task Forces - 49
 - Violent Crime/Fugitive Task Forces - 32
 - Violent Crime/Gang Task Forces - 45
 - Fugitive Task Forces - 21
 - Interstate Theft/Major Offenders (Property Crime/Carjacking Task Forces) - 17
- ◆ SSTFs team 785 FBI Special Agents with 142 other federal Agents, and 1,255 state and local law enforcement participants.

BENEFITS TO STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

- ◆ The task force concept increases the effectiveness and productivity of limited personnel and logistical resources, avoids duplication of investigation and consequent wasteful expenditure of resources in matters of concurrent jurisdiction, and expands the cooperation and communication among federal and state law enforcement agencies.
- ◆ SSTFs allow the application of sophisticated investigative techniques normally associated with complex organized crime and racketeering investigations. Such techniques are frequently not available to local police agencies.
- ◆ The FBI is authorized to reimburse state and local agencies for the overtime worked by full-time members of SSTFs at a rate of \$744.62 per month or \$8,935.44 annually.

GANG INVESTIGATIONS

- ◆ The FBI is identifying and targeting violent street gangs as a priority matter utilizing joint task forces. These task forces are applying investigative techniques and strategies which the FBI has successfully used to target traditional organized crime, including the development of a solid intelligence base, undercover operations, and the application of various electronic surveillance techniques.
- ◆ The FBI is the principal federal agency charged with investigating criminal activity associated with violent street gangs.
- ◆ By applying the same methods used in the successful war on traditional organized crime, SSTFs are developing racketeering and continuing criminal enterprise cases to remove the leadership and the most dangerous members of violent street gangs and seize their assets.
- ◆ Street gangs and other loosely knit groups are responsible for a substantial portion of the increase in violent crime in the United States. The FBI has determined that gangs pursue their criminal enterprises through an array of violent criminal activity to include murder, extortion, kidnapping, assault, robbery and drug trafficking.
- ◆ In numerous cities, FBI-sponsored task forces are targeting individuals or groups associated with the Bloods and Crips, Black Gangster Disciples Nation, Almighty Latin Kings Nation, Jamaican Posses, and other violent street gangs.

- ◆ The investigation of other local or regional gangs involved in kidnapping, bank robberies, drug related murders, as well as an intensified focus on the apprehension of dangerous fugitives continues to be a primary thrust of the overall violent crime strategy.

VIOLENT CRIMES AND MAJOR OFFENDERS PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ A measure of the results of the SSVCI can be seen through a comparison of the statistical accomplishments of the FBI's Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Program:

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY 93</u>	<u>FY 94</u>	<u>FY 95</u>	<u>FY 96</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 99</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Complaints	6,429	6,954	6,090	5,877	5,497	6,279	6,401	2,624	46,151
Arrests	14,026	23,121	24,481	25,146	24,969	25,416	25,181	9,989	172,329
Locates	2,600	3,327	4,027	3,291	3,152	3,451	3,637	1,499	24,984
Indictments/ Informations	6,123	7,197	7,015	6,765	7,382	8,254	8,499	3,531	54,766
Convictions/ Pre-Trial Diversions	6,486	8,231	8,188	7,751	9,241	9,175	9,432	3,550	62,054

* Figures for FY 99 are based on 1st & 2nd quarter statistics which are accumulated through the Integrated Statistical Reporting and Analysis Application. Reporting period 10/1/98 through 3/31/99.

EXAMPLES OF SAFE STREETS TASK FORCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ During the early morning hours of December 12, 1996, the Los Angeles Division in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Los Angeles Police Department, coordinated the simultaneous arrest of 15 individuals associated with the Edward Stanley, Jr., violent drug criminal enterprise.. Arrests and search warrants occurred in Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee; and Las Vegas, Nevada. The arrests and searches were based upon court authorized complaints filed in United States District Court, Central District of California (CDC), Los Angeles, California, which charged the defendants with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and heroin, and in the case of Edward Stanley, Jr., Daniel Ray Bennett and Roy Lee Lovett, Jr., murder-for-hire.

This investigation was based upon information that Stanley was in charge of a violent interstate drug criminal enterprise that supplied numerous Los Angeles Blood and Crip criminal street gangs with large quantities of cocaine and heroin. Stanley's organization also distributed drugs to Memphis, Tennessee. The Stanley organization used loaded vehicles with hidden compartments to transport multi kilograms of cocaine. Stanley directed violent street gang members to commit acts of violence including murder in furtherance of his violent criminal enterprise.

On September 16, 1997, the first federal death penalty prosecution in the Central District of California, Los Angeles, California, in the past 30 years was culminated with guilty pleas from Edward Stanley, Jr. and Daniel Ray Bennett. Roy Lee Lovett later pled guilty to the same charge of violation of Title 18, USC 1958, Conspiracy to commit murder for hire (resulting in death). The three men pled guilty to the November 26, 1996, violent murder of Ricky Ray Hall in Las Vegas, Nevada. The murder of Hall was determined to be related to the Edward Stanley drug trafficking organization because, Stanley believed Hall had disappeared with an estimated \$300,000 of the organization's drug proceeds in 1995. When Hall surfaced in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1996, Stanley hired Bennett, a documented Donna Street Crips gang member and Lovett, to kill Hall.

On December 1, 1997, Edward Stanley, Jr., and Daniel Ray Bennett were sentenced to Life Imprisonment Without Possibility of Release in the Central District of California, Los Angeles, California.

To date, 13 of the 15 originally indicted subjects have been convicted in this investigation in this Los Angeles investigation. During the course of this joint FBI investigation approximately \$600,000 in drug proceeds, 25 kilograms of cocaine, 45 firearms, 10 automobiles and one kilo of heroin have been seized. Forfeiture efforts are continuing and combined with cash seizures are expected to surpass \$1 million.



In March 1996, the Omaha Division, initiated an investigation into the illegal criminal activities of the Murder Town Gangster Crips (MTGC). The MTGC are a local set of the Crips street gang that seized and maintained control of the Pleasant View housing project in Omaha, Nebraska. Leadership and members of this gang are feared by members of the housing project because of their violence. The MTGC had been involved in an ongoing criminal enterprise involving narcotics distribution, homicide, assault, threatening witnesses, and conspiracy to commit these violent criminal acts. Additionally, members of the MTGC are known to have committed several homicides and have assaulted and threatened to assault any witnesses to these killings.

On August 11, 1997, MTGC member James Edward Myers was convicted by a federal jury in Douglas County, Nebraska, District Court, on four counts of conspiracy to distribute cocaine, possession with intent to deliver more than 140 grams of cocaine, use of a firearm during the commission of a crime and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Myers was subsequently sentenced to 70 years. Also, Myers was convicted of murder in October 1997 and subsequently sentenced in this investigation. Furthermore, 15 other MTGC members and/or associates have pled guilty to possession of cocaine with intent to deliver and have been sentenced in this investigation.



On July 1993, a Safe Streets Task Force in the Los Angeles (LA) Division, initiated an investigation into the illegal criminal activities of the California Mexican Mafia, aka “LA EME” or “EME”.

The EME was formed in the California Department of Corrections Penal System at the Duele Vocational Institution located in Tracy, California, in the late 1950s, by East LA Hispanics who predominately came from a common neighborhood (barrio). EME (phonetic spelling for the Spanish letter M) was born with the idea of forming a “Gang of Gangs” that would supersede the traditional territorial boundaries set up outside of prison walls.

The well-organized gang built its criteria along ethnic lines and a set of rules modeled after the Sicilian Mafia. With a set of rules governing its members, the EME has become a fundamental criminal enterprise established for the sole purpose of committing criminal activities in furtherance of the organization’s goals. Some of the gang’s activities include expanding its control of heroin trafficking, drug rip-offs, prostitution, business robberies, contract murders, gambling, debt collection, extortion, and other illicit activities.

EME members were also responsible for arranging or participating in a killing spree that took the lives of two advisers on the film "American Me," a movie depicting EME's prison and street activities in California; arranging or participating in 12 attempted murders including a failed hit on an El Sureno gang member; directing wide-scale assaults on sheriff's deputies and inmates in the Los Angeles County Jail; engaging in drug trafficking in Latino neighborhoods throughout Southern California and killing or threatening to kill competitors; and possessing a variety of assault weapons.

Traditionally, EME membership has been comprised mostly of Southern California Hispanics; however, EME membership has been known to expand into Northern and Central California. All EME members abide by a "blood in, blood out" honor code.

On April 29, 1995, this investigation resulted in the arrest of 22 members and/or associates of the EME on federal Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges. Quantities of marijuana, cocaine, 14 vehicles, ten weapons, numerous documents, and photographs relating to the EME's criminal transactions and in excess of \$8,000.00 in U.S. currency were seized from targeted locations.

On September 1995, a superseding RICO indictment was handed down by a Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles, California, against 22 members of the EME. Of the 22 indicted EME members, seven of the defendants pleaded guilty to RICO charges, one defendant was severed from the others for trial purposes, and one defendant was killed before trial, with the 13 remaining defendants standing trial in October 1996.

In May 1997, following a seven-month federal trial, a federal jury in Los Angeles, California, after a two-week deliberation convicted 12 of the 13 indicted EME members of multiple counts of federal RICO charges, including drug statutes, murder and extortion carried out in a ruthless bid to extend the EME's influence beyond California's prisons. The one remaining EME member was acquitted. The conviction of the 12 EME members could result in life sentences and forfeiture of most of their personal property.

During the week of September 2 - 5, 1997, the 12 convicted EME members were sentenced in Los Angeles, California, with sentences ranging from 32 years in prison to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Also, at the conclusion of the above mentioned RICO trial, a forfeiture hearing was held; and it was determined that all property claimed in the original indictment was found to have been procured from illegal activities of the organization. Therefore, this property has been forfeited to the federal government.

The next phase of this investigation focused on two additional EME members, both of whom reside in the Visalia area and have been involved in the organization's ongoing criminal activities. Previously targeted subject, Victorio Murillo, who was found not guilty in the recent RICO trial, has continued his criminal activity since his release from custody.

A second identified target known as Manuel "Tati" Torres, a known EME member who has recently been released from Pelican Bay State Prison, has similarly been involved in the organization's criminal activity.

On February 2, 1999, law enforcement personnel participated in the execution of 17 federal arrest warrants and 12 search warrants in this investigation in the Los Angeles, California, area. The federal arrest warrants are based on 17 indictments issued out of the Central District of California (CDC), Los Angeles, California.

These 17 indictments represent the culmination of a complex, long-term Safe Streets Task Force investigation targeting criminal enterprise components of violent street gangs based in Los Angeles, California.



In October 1992, the Houston (HO) Division initiated an investigation into the drug- trafficking activities of Wendell Alboyd Cornett. This investigation was predicated upon information that revealed Cornett and his brother Warren Dean Cornett were major drug traffickers in Houston as well as other major cities and states throughout the United States. The Cornett criminal organization had operated in Houston with virtual impunity for at least seven years as Wendell Alboyd Cornett was virtually insulated from direct involvement.

Source information and Houston Police Department (HPD) intelligence have shown Cornett's criminal affiliation with numerous violent criminal street gang members, most notably the Westside Eightball Posse (WSEBP). Wendell Alboyd Cornett was considered a street lieutenant for the WSEBP. Cornett is believed to be responsible for ordering the robberies of certain properties and businesses in the Houston area. Cornett operated his drug-trafficking activities with a great deal of sophistication and had established front businesses to launder drug proceeds. These businesses were also utilized to facilitate the distribution of cocaine. These businesses were the House of Colors Paint and Body and Stadium Bowl Pro-Shop. Cornett's organization was responsible for trafficking in excess of 600 kilograms of cocaine through Houston as well as other major U.S. cities and states.

The Cornett criminal enterprise has been involved in drug trafficking, interstate theft, strong-arm robberies, home invasions, bank fraud, auto thefts, weapons violations, and murder. Additionally, the Cornett organization established sources of information within the HPD and Harris County Sheriff's Department (HCSD).

Moreover, on one occasion an officer was utilized by Cornett and his organization to run license tags from FBI surveillance vehicles.

On August 8, 1996, Wendell A. Cornett, Warren D. Cornett, Kim B. Boutte, Kevin R. Nixon, and Kelvin Turner were arrested at their residences. In addition to these arrests, two search warrants were executed and five-vehicle seizure warrants were executed along with four consents to search. Furthermore, two additional vehicles were seized along with \$32,125.00 in U.S. currency.

On October 4, 1996, FGJ issued true bills of indictments for Henry C. Derousselle, Mary M. Galloway, Linda A. Cornett, Toni L. Scott, Romalius E. Mathews, and for HCSD Deputy James M. Phillips, Jr., who provided information and narcotics transaction security at various intervals for the Cornett organization. Deputy Phillips was paid by Wendell A. Cornett through a cooperating defendant to act as security. According to intelligence sources, Phillips facilitated some drug deals by his "security presence" and turned a blind eye to his friend's drug operation. Deputy Phillips was taken to trial and convicted of federal charges stemming from this investigation. One month later, the judge overturned the conviction. The USA's Office is currently considering re prosecution of the Deputy on the same charges, pending development of additional evidence.

In January 1998, Wendell Alboyd Cornett was given life imprisonment, and Warren Dean Cornett received a mandatory life sentence.

On January 30, 1998, Kevin Renard Nixon and Romalius Eugene Mathews were given ten years imprisonment, and Linda A. Cornett (Wendell's wife) received three years.

In May 1998, Mary Maltilliea Galloway received a five-year sentence, Toni Lamont Scott was given a ten-year sentence and Kelvin Tuner was sentenced to five years. Kim Benita Boutte is awaiting a federal sentence scheduled for August 1999 in U.S. District Court in the SDT for Title 21, U.S.C. 841 and Title 2, U.S.C. 846.



The San Diego and Norfolk Divisions have been investigating the methamphetamine-trafficking activities of an organization involved in a conspiracy to distribute multiple pounds of methamphetamine to an association of outlaw motorcycle club members in Virginia and Tennessee. This investigation has identified 28 suspected drug packages shipped from California to Virginia on multiple occasions and over 30 subjects.

On October 12, 1998, indictments were returned by a Federal Grand Jury in the Eastern District of Virginia against 4 individuals, charging them with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

On October 14, 1998, San Diego, Memphis, and Norfolk FBI Agents executed search warrants in locations that were identified during the course of the above-stated investigations. Seized in Virginia Beach, Virginia, were 15 pounds of methamphetamine, \$230,000.00 in currency, 12 weapons, 2 vehicles, and 1 motorcycle. Seized in Luray, Tennessee, were numerous weapons, to include a grenade launcher, and \$5,000.00 in currency. Seized in San Diego, California, were 22 pounds of methamphetamine, 19 weapons, C-4 explosives with blasting caps, and \$1,000.00 in currency.

On February 18, 1999, 31 members and associates of the Renegade Outlaw Motorcycle Club were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in the Eastern District of Virginia. Charges included violation of federal narcotics laws and ITSMV.

On February 24, 1999, at 6:00 a.m., over 100 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers executed arrest and search warrants in and around Norfolk, Virginia. As of 11:00 a.m. that day, 28 of the 31 indicted subjects were in custody.

The three remaining subjects were in custody by February 28, 1999. Weapons, including a grenade launcher, 4 hand grenades, and dynamite, in addition to narcotics, have been seized. Numerous residences and vehicles, including 19 Harley-Davidson motorcycles, are expected to be forfeited as part of this investigation.



In June 1992, a Safe Streets Task Force in the Los Angeles (LA) Division, initiated an investigation into the Grape Street Crips (GSC), a violent, LA-based street gang. This investigation targeted Wayne Day and Cedric McGill, two of the most successful and notorious drug distributors within the GSC.

On January 10, 1996, the LA Division indicted 10 members of Cedric McGill's drug-trafficking organization. McGill, like Day, had "Original Gangster" status and enjoyed a lofty reputation among LA gang members. Over the last two decades, McGill formed a highly lucrative drug-distribution network which transcended traditional gang distinctions.

This investigation revealed that McGill was responsible for the distribution of more than 200 kilograms of cocaine, much of which was distributed in the three largest housing project areas in South Central Los Angeles (Jordan Downs, Imperial Courts, and Nickerson Gardens).

Many of the nine individuals arrested with McGill had violent criminal histories, and one was suspected of firebombing an apartment that killed five members of a family. All 10 defendants pled guilty in United States District Court, Central District of California, to violations of federal narcotics laws and were subsequently sentenced.

On May 15, 1996, the LA Division and the Minneapolis (MP) Division culminated the next phase of this investigation with the arrest of 22 members of the GSC. Those arrested in LA included Wayne Day, commonly referred to as the "Godfather of Watts," in view of the commanding position he occupied in the Los Angeles street gang world. For decades, Day had been considered to be untouchable by law enforcement authorities.

The arrests were based upon sealed federal indictments issued in the Central District of California, LA, and the District of Minnesota, MP, charging the defendants with violations of federal narcotics and conspiracy laws. Additionally, Day and two others were charged with Possession of Goods Stolen from Interstate Commerce.

Through the use of sophisticated investigative techniques, the FBI determined that Day and his coconspirators were involved in an extensive interstate drug-trafficking network, with customers in cities throughout the country, including LA, Cleveland, Memphis (ME), MP, and Jackson (JN), Mississippi.

This investigation had been closely coordinated utilizing the "anchor office" approach, and by doing so, resulted in the seizure of numerous drug shipments which originated in Los Angeles. For example, seven kilograms of powder cocaine were seized in ME, and five pounds of cocaine base or "crack" were seized in MP. Furthermore, in excess of 600 grams of "crack" were seized in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and more than one kilogram of "crack" was seized at a LA bus terminal as the drug couriers were boarding the bus.

Moreover, in late November 1995, approximately \$460,000.00 in U.S. currency, 26 kilograms of cocaine, and drug records were seized in LA from a Mexican drug-trafficking organization. The organization headed by a Mexican national had been supplying one of Wayne Day's GSC associates.

The success from this investigation produced the following results:

Indictments

LA, California:	24
JN, Mississippi:	2
MP, Minnesota:	11
ME, Tennessee:	20
Total number of indictments nationwide:	57
Currency Seized:	\$516,930.62
Vehicles Seized:	4
Weapons Seized:	28
Narcotics Seized:	43 Kilograms of Cocaine 4 LBS. of Amphetamines

The investigative component of this investigation has utilized the “team concept” to develop evidence against the targeted members of the GSC and has employed various sophisticated techniques, including the effective operation of CWs and court-authorized electronic surveillance.

The GSC investigation has been extremely effective and has served to disrupt the criminal activities of major elements within the GSC and the other criminal elements affiliated with the gang. The overall impact of the investigation can be clearly demonstrated by the successful prosecution of numerous conspirators involved with the drug-trafficking organizations of Wayne Day and Cedric McGill and the lengthy prison sentences handed down by the court.

The investigation not only disrupted drug trafficking organizations in Los Angeles, but also in Minneapolis, Cleveland, Jackson, and Memphis.

The next phase of this investigation culminated on May 28, 1998. On that date, several hundred law enforcement personnel nationwide participated in the execution of 73 federal arrest warrants and federal search warrants. The federal warrants were based on 17 indictments issued out of the Central District of California, Los Angeles, California, and 56 indictments issued out of the Eastern District of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, on federal drugs and firearms charges.

These parallel investigations illustrated the flow of cocaine from Mexican drug-trafficking organizations to members of violent Los Angeles street gangs and their associates throughout the country to cities such as Little Rock, Arkansas, and Baltimore, Maryland, where local distributors continue the flow of cocaine and its attendant violence across the streets of this country.

- ◆ The New York Division (Long Island Resident Agency), initiated an investigation targeting members of the Pagans Outlaw Motorcycle Club (POMC). The POMC is being investigated under the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) statute. The NY Division is working on this investigation with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Suffolk County Police Department and the Nassau County Police Department.

The Pagans are an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG) and are considered one of the FBI's "top-five" (the five largest OMGs). The Pagans are a target of the FBI's National Gang Strategy (NGS), which addresses major domestic violent street gang/drug enterprises which are significant threats to the integrity of American society. The Pagans consider themselves "outlaws" of society. Their members engage in a variety of violent criminal activities, including assault, robbery, rape, murder, prostitution, arson, bombings, burglary, extortion, and drug trafficking.

On April 7, 1998, the NY Division executed arrest and search and seizure warrants at approximately 6:00 a.m. at various locations throughout the Division. Additionally, arrest and search warrants were executed in the Philadelphia Division, Miami Division, and Richmond Division. All warrants were executed without incident.

As a result of these warrants, 27 individuals were arrested in New York, 1 in Philadelphia, 1 in Miami, and 1 in Richmond. Those arrested were members and/or associates of the POMC. These arrests include the National Vice President, Michael Desena, part of the Pagans national governing body.

This investigation continues in New York and Miami in an effort to locate four individuals who are fugitives. Additionally, searches were conducted at 23 locations. 25 motorcycles, approximately \$8,000.00 in cash, approximately 100 firearms, along with numerous knives and other weapons, were seized from the POMC in this investigation.

This investigation resulted in the decimation of the remaining National Leadership of the Long Island Chapters of the POMC. This was the largest single arrest operation of POMC membership in U.S. history. While the individual charges vary, most relate to murder conspiracies against members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Gang and the manager of a Huntington, New York, exotic dance club. Furthermore, extortion, assault, and the use of a firearm in commission of a violent felony are also being charged in this investigation.

The defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit murder and assault, extortion, arson, and other violent crimes.

- ◆ On January 7, 1999, a Safe Streets Task Force in the Miami Division conducted the execution of 26 arrest warrants in Miami, Florida, which resulted in the arrest of 21 subjects. The arrest warrants were based on indictments issued out of the Southern District of Florida, for violation of federal drug, money-laundering, and firearms laws. This operation represents the conclusion of a 1 ½ year investigation targeting the John Doe street gang and the Cloud Nine street gang, two violent criminal enterprises based in the Liberty City area of Miami, Florida. The 21 arrests included the apprehension of Corey Smith, also known as (aka) Bubba, the notorious leader of the John Doe gang. Moreover, during the above operation, seven firearms were recovered and \$1,000.00 in U.S. currency was seized.

The above-mentioned investigation is a joint Miami Division, Miami Police Department (MPD), Metro Dade Police Department (MDPD), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Safe Streets Task Force case, in conjunction with the Weed and Seed Initiative, which was initiated in August of 1997. This investigation targets the drug-trafficking and violent criminal activities of the John Doe gang and particularly the leader of the gang

Corey Smith. The John Doe gang, and its competitor; the Cloud Nine gang, were both responsible for the majority of cocaine, rock cocaine, heroin, and marijuana distributed in the northwest section of Dade County, Florida. Additionally, John Doe gang members would consistently utilize AK-47 assault rifles and other high-powered weapons to commit assaults and homicides in furtherance of the gangs' criminal activities.

Since 1995, over 40 slayings and ten shootings have been attributed to these drug gangs, including over 20 homicides and shootings since August 1998. As a result, significant media attention in the local Miami area and across the Nation has been given to the hostile gang warfare perpetrated by the John Doe gang and Cloud Nine gang.

Throughout this investigation, the Miami Division utilized a myriad of sophisticated investigative techniques targeting Smith and other John Doe gang members. These efforts led to the seizure of approximately \$250,000.00 in U.S. currency, approximately ten kilograms of cocaine, approximately 70 pounds of marijuana, and the anticipated seizure of approximately 12 vehicles.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida, conducted a press conference in Miami, Florida, on January 7, 1999, to announce the above takedown operation.



In 1995, the Los Angeles Division, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Police Department, conducted an enforcement action against the Eight Trey Gangster Crips (ETGC), a violent street gang in Los Angeles, California. This enforcement action focused on an area of South Central Los Angeles that was suffering from an increase in violent criminal activity and allegedly being controlled by the northside faction of the ETGC.

The ETGC were responsible for 80 percent of the violent criminal activity within that neighborhood. This enforcement action involved the execution of 120 search warrants and the arrests of 61 individuals. The individuals arrested were charged with violations ranging from robbery, burglary, and violent assaults to drug trafficking. As a result of this enforcement action the crime rate in that neighborhood was reduced by 40 percent.

The next phase of the ETGC investigation focused on the interstate drug-trafficking activities of Michael Withers, Brady Armstrong, and their Mexican drug suppliers. Withers, Armstrong, and their organizations were responsible for the interstate transportation and distribution of large quantities of rock cocaine, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and PCP to cities across the Nation. This investigation utilized all available sophisticated investigative techniques to demonstrate how this criminal enterprise managed its violent drug-trafficking enterprises.

On November 18, 1997, in connection with the charging of 82 subjects, one of the largest national take downs in recent history occurred that involving more than 400 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers/Agents. The 82 subjects had previously been charged in connection with a multi-jurisdictional Safe Streets Task Force (SSTF) investigation targeting violent street gangs, their intermediary drug suppliers, and ultimately their Mexican suppliers. Federal charges included drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms, and operating a continuing criminal enterprise (CCE).

A total of 82 subjects were indicted in Los Angeles, California, 52 subjects were charged in 10 indictments and 3 subjects were charged in a criminal complaint. 11 additional defendants were charged in St. Louis, Missouri. Moreover, 16 subjects were charged previously and prosecuted locally, of which 8 have been convicted. A total of 82 subjects have been charged in this multi-agency, SSTF investigation, spearheaded by SSTFs in the Los Angeles, and St. Louis Division's. Furthermore, 67 federal arrest warrants were issued and 12 federal search warrants were executed in Los Angeles, California. Arrest warrants were executed in St. Louis, Missouri; Denver, Colorado; Dallas, Texas; Gastonia, North Carolina; Louisville, Kentucky; Toledo, Ohio; Jackson, Mississippi; and San Diego, California.

These indictments represented the culmination of a two-year SSTF investigation targeting criminal enterprise components of this violent street gang based in Los Angeles, California, and St. Louis, Missouri. Included in the indictments was the Mexican supplier to these criminal enterprises.

Throughout this investigation, the Safe Streets St. Louis Gang Task Force and the Safe Streets Los Angeles Metropolitan Task Force on Violent Crime, gang task force component, utilized an array of sophisticated investigative techniques.

This joint St. Louis Division and Los Angeles Division investigation has recorded the following seizures; \$477,000.00 in U.S. currency, 10 firearms, 30 kilograms of cocaine, 6 kilograms of heroin, 25 pounds of marijuana, 11 ounces of methamphetamine, a half kilogram of rock cocaine, 5 gallons of hydriodic acid, 200 pounds of red phosphorous, 24 gallons of methanol, and a half ton of iodine.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, the half ton of iodine seized on March 7, 1997, would have produced more than 350 pounds of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of more than \$2.1 million. The street value of the above drugs seized is believed to be over \$3 million. Drug proceeds in the amount of \$390,000.00 have been seized in this investigation.

The financial investigation conducted on all of the indictable subjects of this investigation has resulted in the forfeiture of assets (houses, apartments, vehicles) worth in excess of \$2 million. Additionally, 5 subjects that were arrested have been convicted on drug charges in state court.

- ◆ On March 3, 1999, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas, announced a federal jury returned guilty verdicts against 10 members of the Texas Mexican Mafia prison gang. The jury convicted the Mafia members on charges of participating in a racketeering conspiracy which included murder, attempted murder, assault, extortion, drug trafficking, and other crimes. In particular, the racketeering acts included 6 murders committed in 1994 and 1995 and 8 murders committed in 1997. Each defendant faces up to life in federal prison. The convicted defendants included Roberto Perez, also known as "Beaver," the reputed General of the Texas Mexican Mafia.

The Texas Mexican Mafia investigation was a joint Safe Streets Task Force (SSTF) case comprised of Agents and officers from the FBI, San Antonio Police Department, and Bexar County Sheriff's Office. This investigation targeted the widespread criminal activity conducted by Texas Mexican Mafia members within and outside of the Texas prison system. The above case began more than two years ago as a result of an internal power struggle within the Texas Mexican Mafia gang following the 1993 federal indictment and subsequent conviction of Mafia President Heriberto Huerta and numerous other Mafia members. Several of the homicides described in the above trial related to the aforementioned power struggle.

Sixteen defendants were charged overall as a result of this investigation. Six other defendants had previously pled guilty to federal charges prior to the above trial.

- ◆ In Bridgeport and Hartford, Connecticut, 2 Safe Streets Task Forces, composed of 7 FBI Agents and 15 police officers representing 10 agencies, committed their investigative efforts and resources to an investigation involving the criminal activities of the Almighty Latin King/Queen Nation (ALKQN) and the Los Solidos (LS) street gangs. These investigative efforts focused on the leadership and associate gang members of the 2 above-mentioned street gangs. These investigations culminated in the arrests and indictments of over 50 ALKQN and 52 LS members and associates. Furthermore, 16 ALKQN and 8 LS members were charged under the RICO statute, to include 13 homicides between the investigations. These were the first prosecutions that utilized the RICO statute for gang members in the District of Connecticut. Furthermore, the incarceration of these gang members had a measurable effect in reducing the violent criminal activity in these communities.

On March 13, 1997, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that the U.S. District Court issued criminal complaints for 32 members and/or associates of the ALKQN on federal drug conspiracy and firearms charges related to drug operations in New Haven, Norwalk, and Bridgeport, Connecticut. Personnel from the New Haven Division's Bridgeport Safe Streets Task Force, Bridgeport, Connecticut, arrested 25 members and associates of the ALKQN. Additionally, criminal complaints were filed against 6 additional defendants in state custody, and 1 member of the organization is still in a fugitive status. U.S. Attorney Droney said that the arrests were the result of an outstanding cooperative investigation over the past year by the Bridgeport Safe Streets Task Force.



In October, 1998, Orestes Hernandez, Eladio Alberto Munoz, Gloria Diaz and Jose Blas Lopez were sentenced for their involvement in an organized kidnapping, home-invasion, and robbery gang targeted in a Miami Division investigation entitled "Operation Thundersweep."

The sentencing followed the May 20, 1998, federal trial conviction of the above defendants and two others, Sergio Echevarria and Ismael Comacho, for Hobbs Act conspiracy, extortion, robbery, carjacking, and use of a firearm during a crime of violence. Hernandez received a sentence of 76 years in prison; Munoz received a sentence of 58 years in prison; Diaz received a sentence of 29 years in prison, and Lopez received a sentence of 15 years and 8 months in prison.

Operation Thundersweep was a joint organized crime drug enforcement task force (OCDETF) case comprised of Agents and officers from the FBI, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Miami-Dade Police Department, City of Miami Police Department, and Hialeah Police Department.

This investigation targeted a violent gang of Cuban nationals who, as early as 1995, conspired to extort money from individuals by kidnapping them and holding the victims ransom. The victims were usually selected by Diaz and Lopez, a married couple who were religious leaders of an Afro-Caribbean religion known as "Santeria." Diaz and Lopez would identify one of their followers who was wealthy or had access to large sums of cash. This information, along with the prospective victim's address would be provided to Hernandez, who was one of Diaz and Lopez's "godchildren" in the Santeria religion. Hernandez would then disseminate the victim's information to other coconspirators who, along with Hernandez, would engage in the kidnapping and home-invasion robbery of the victim(s).

In two of the charged kidnappings, the indicted conspirators utilized blowtorches to torture their victims in an effort to obtain the demanded ransom. In another instance, the brutal gang of extortionists hung one of the victim's young son from a ceiling fan until the victim identified where the family hid their

valuables. Once the ransom demands were met, Diaz and Lopez would share the proceeds of the robberies and extortions with their church members.

Nine defendants were charged overall as a result of this investigation. Three other defendants, Ilvigio Hernandez, Valdemir Negrin, and Carlos Escandell had previously pled guilty to charges prior to the above trial.

◆ The San Diego County District Attorney's Office has attributed 25 percent of all violent crimes in San Diego to violent street gangs. The fact that San Diego shares a common border with Mexico has contributed to the growth in membership of San Diego's gangs by illegal aliens. This has injected an ever increasing element of violence into gang activity. Furthermore, San Diego gangs are increasingly evolving into violent drug enterprises and have aligned themselves with violent Mexican Drug- Trafficking Organizations (MDTOs) such as the Arellano-Felix Organization (AFO).

In 1996, a Safe Streets Task Force in the San Diego (SD) Division initiated an investigation into the Logan Heights street gang. The SD Division identified a component of this gang as a criminal enterprise gang that was closely aligned with the AFO, also known as the Tijuana Cartel. The AFO is considered to be one of the most vicious, ruthless criminal organizations involved in smuggling drugs into the United States and their subsequent distribution onto American streets. The AFO has used Logan Heights gang members to murder rival drug traffickers, protect drug shipments, and conduct other violent enforcement activity all in furtherance of this criminal enterprise.

In September 1997, following a two-year Safe Streets Task Force violent street gang investigation, Ramon Arellano-Felix, widely recognized as the head enforcer of the AFO, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury seated in the Southern District of California, San Diego, California. Ramon Arellano-Felix was charged with conspiracy to import cocaine and marijuana. Because of the AFO's propensity for violence, Ramon Arellano-Felix was placed on the FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted Fugitive list, in September 1997.

On February 5, 1998, a Federal Grand Jury seated in the Southern District of California, San Diego, California, returned a true bill indictment against 10 Logan Heights gang members for their involvement with the AFO, and cross border violence.

Charged as an overt act in the indictment was the May 24, 1993, murder of Cardinal Juan Posados-Ocampo, at the Guadalajara Airport. Logan Heights gang members, acting on the instructions of the AFO were attempting to murder a rival drug trafficker.

On May 14, 1998, a Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of California, issued a true bill superseding indictment charging additional overt acts to the above-noted indictment.

The additional overt acts included the July 22, 1996, attack on the Mexican military in Zapopan, Mexico, which left two soldiers dead; and the September 19, 1996, shootout with the Mexican Army in Culiacan, which Hernan Barron-Carona,

David Barron-Carona's cousin, and Daniel Benitez Mendoza, a Logan Heights street gang member, were fatally wounded. 3 of the above-noted subjects indicted in this investigation have pled guilty and have been sentenced. 2 subjects are presently in custody, 2 subjects are deceased, and 5 subjects are in a fugitive status.



On January 14, 1999, a Safe Streets Task Force in the New Orleans (NO) Division initiated a takedown operation that involved the execution of 12 arrest warrants in New Orleans, Louisiana, which resulted in the arrest of 11 subjects. The arrest warrants were based on a complaint issued out of the Eastern District of Louisiana, for violations of federal drug laws. The takedown operation represents the conclusion of a nine-month investigation targeting the Iberville Warriors, a violent drug gang responsible for controlling the distribution of rock cocaine in the Iberville Public Housing Development in New Orleans. The 11 arrests include the apprehension of Cordell Thomas, the notorious leader of the Iberville Warriors. Moreover, during the above operation, 4 firearms were recovered in addition to the seizure of \$25,000.00 in U.S. currency and 1 ½ pounds of marijuana.

This investigation is a joint New Orleans Division, New Orleans Police Department investigation which was initiated in May of 1998. This investigation targets the drug-trafficking and violent criminal activities of the Iberville Warriors gang and particularly the leader of the gang, Cordell Thomas. The Iberville Warriors gang has been responsible for the majority of cocaine, rock cocaine, heroin, and marijuana distributed and the related violent crimes committed in the Iberville housing complex. As a result of the increase in crime at the Iberville complex during 1997 and 1998, the New Orleans Gang Task Force began to concentrate its investigative efforts on Thomas and his criminal associates. Many of the Iberville Warriors have been linked to at least 60 violent crimes and drug-related acts committed in the past year. As a result, significant attention in the local New Orleans area has been given to the criminal activities perpetrated by the Iberville Warrior gang.

Throughout this investigation the New Orleans has utilized all available sophisticated investigative techniques to target Thomas and other Iberville Warrior gang members and/or associates. These efforts led to the above-stated

operation. In addition to earlier seizures of ounce quantities of cocaine, rock cocaine, heroin, and the recovery of 3 firearms, 2 subjects previously arrested during this investigation have subsequently pled guilty to federal drug charges.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- ◆ Community Outreach is the portion of the Safe Streets Program which seeks to develop a partnership between law enforcement and community leaders to coordinate community resources and community action against violent crimes.

POLICE EXECUTIVE FELLOWSHIP

- ◆ As an extension of the Safe Streets Program, the FBI has established an executive fellowship for a management-ranked police officer (lieutenant or above) who is detailed to FBI Headquarters with managerial elements of the FBI's Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section on a six-month rotation basis.

A portion of the executive fellowship assignment involves working with the Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs; and Executive Office of Weed and Seed.

SAFE TRAILS

- ◆ On March 3, 1994, the FBI initiated Operation Safe Trails with the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement, Phoenix, Arizona. Safe Trails, a derivative of the FBI's Safe Streets Program, is exclusively designed to address major crime and child sexual abuse in Indian Country. The FBI/Navajo Task Force is comprised of four FBI Special Agents and 12 Navajo Nation Department of Law Enforcement personnel.
- ◆ Twelve Navajo Department of Law Enforcement police officers attended the FBI Survival Awareness In-Service during June 1994. Survival Awareness training is designed for law enforcement personnel involved with the FBI's Safe Streets and/or Safe Trails Task Force concept.
- ◆ On April 1, 1995, FBI Salt Lake City, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, entered into a Safe Trails Task Force on the Navajo Reservation in Utah. This task force targets the violent crime problems on the Reservation, particularly child abuse, homicides, and youth gangs.
- ◆ On May 1, 1995, FBI Albuquerque, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Department of Law Enforcement, initiated a Safe Trails Task Force on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. This task force targets the homicide, child sexual abuse, and gang problems on the Navajo Reservation.

- ◆ On July 1, 1996, FBI Las Vegas along with the Nevada Division of Investigation initiated a Safe Trails Task Force. The primary objective of this task force is to identify and investigate the violent criminal activity occurring on the eight colonies and eight Indian Reservations in northwestern Nevada. The task force also targets violent criminal activity to include, but not limited to, child sexual abuse, murder, rape, drug abuse/drug distribution, and gang activity.
- ◆ All three FBI offices, which have a portion of the Navajo Nation in their territory, now have a Safe Trails Task Force in operation.

SAFE STREETS TASK FORCE SUMMARY TASK FORCE BREAKDOWN

FUGITIVE TASK FORCES (FTF): 21

FTF's are responsible for locating and apprehending the most sought after federal and state violent fugitives.

VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCES (VCTF): 49

VCTF's address street gang and drug-related violence including bank robbery, armed robbery, kidnapping, extortion, murder for hire, firearms violations, RICO violations, and violent offenses that fall within the Interstate Transportation in Aid of Racketeering statutes and Hobbs Act violations.

VIOLENT CRIME/GANG TASK FORCES (VC/GTF): 45

VC/GTF's target violent street gangs and their associates responsible for gang-related criminal activity. Additionally, VC/GTFs place a specific emphasis on the identification of the major domestic violent street gangs/drug enterprises which pose significant threats to the integrity of our society. VC/GTFs pursue these gangs through sustained, proactive, multi-divisional, coordinated investigations under Federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization; and Continuing Criminal Enterprise Statutes.

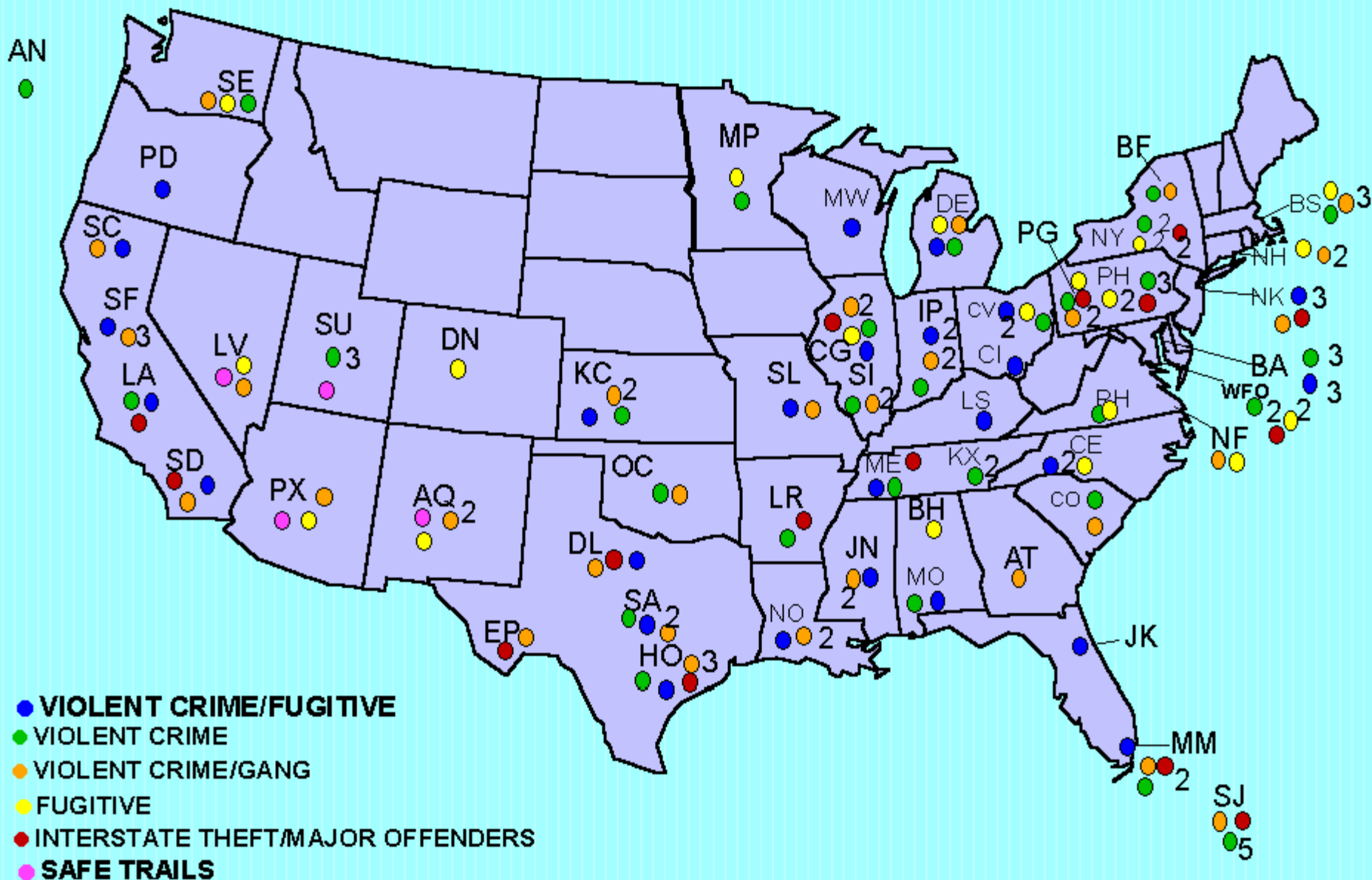
VIOLENT CRIME/FUGITIVE TASK FORCES (VC/FTF): 32

VC/FTF's address both fugitive and street gang and drug-related violence.

INTERSTATE THEFT MAJOR OFFENDERS TASK FORCES (ITMO): 17

ITMO Task Forces target violent, major theft groups to include armed truck hijackings, armed automobile hijackings, gangs, and major jewelry robbery rings.

SAFE STREETS TASK FORCES 4/99



SAFE STREETS TASK FORCES 4/99

PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

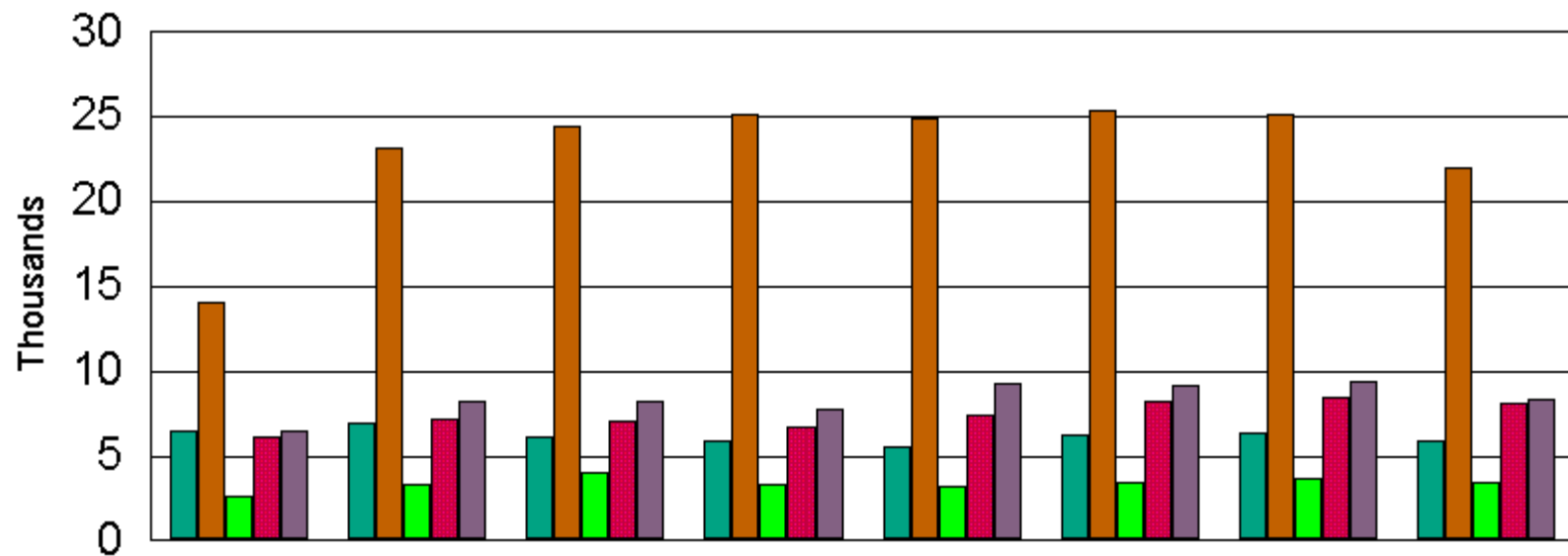


	<u>SPECIAL</u> <u>AGENTS</u>	<u>OTHER</u> <u>FEDERAL</u>	<u>STATE &</u> <u>LOCAL</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
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<u>FUGITIVE</u>	86	18	136	240
<u>VIOLENT CRIME</u>	329	60	456	845
<u>VIOLENT/CRIME/GANG</u>	157	41	328	526
<u>VIOLENT CRIME/FUG</u>	132	16	215	363
<u>MAJOR OFFENDERS</u>	81	7	120	208
<u>TOTALS</u>	785	142	1,255	2,182

VIOLENT CRIMES AND MAJOR OFFENDERS SECTION PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

10/99



	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Complai	6429	6954	6090	5877	5497	6279	6401	5857
Arrests	14026	23121	24481	25146	24969	25416	25181	21982
Locates	2600	3327	4027	3291	3152	3451	3637	3472
Indt/Info	6123	7197	7015	6765	7382	8254	8499	8087
Conv/Pt	6486	8231	8188	7751	9241	9175	9432	8326



SAFE STREETS TASK FORCES

FIELD OFFICES - 52

4/99

FUGITIVE TASK FORCES 21

VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCES 49

VIOLENT CRIME/FUGITIVE TASK FORCES 32

VIOLENT CRIME/GANG TASK FORCES 45

**INTERSTATE THEFT/
MAJOR OFFENDERS TASK FORCES 17**

TOTAL NUMBER OF TASK FORCES 164